



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 4, 2005

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## **THOUSANDS OF DHS CLIENTS COULD QUALIFY FOR TAX REFUNDS *CLIENTS URGED TO SEEK FREE TAX PREPARATION***

Nashville, Tenn.--It's tax season again and every day thousands of Tennesseans are needlessly spending money on commercial tax preparation sites when they could be getting their taxes done for free! By visiting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site, individuals and families can get the free help they need.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is joining forces with the United Way's 2-1-1 community services information line and the IRS to direct low-income clients to their nearest VITA site location. Many low-income individuals and DHS clients will learn that they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC has become an increasingly significant part of the U.S. tax code since it was launched in the mid-1970's. Many DHS clients enrolled in the Food Stamp program and in Families First, the state's welfare-to-work program, will qualify for the EITC. It is a refundable federal income tax credit that provides substantial benefits to thousands of qualified filers each year, depending on family size and income.

"The Department realizes our clients are working diligently to become self-sufficient," said Commissioner Virginia T. Lodge. "We want to reinforce our clients' efforts by raising awareness about the EITC, which allows low-income families to receive a refund from their federal income taxes. The EITC is a powerful tool designed to help the working poor."

Thousands of Families First clients may qualify for the EITC, including over 7,900 participants in Shelby County, 3,000 in Davidson County and 1,500 clients in both Hamilton and Knox Counties.

### **Income Qualifications and Refund Examples**

Earned income of less than:

	Maximum Credit:
• \$34,458 (\$35,458 if married filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children	\$4,300
• \$30,338 (\$31,338 if married filing jointly) with one qualifying child	\$2,604
• \$11,490 (\$12,490 if married filing jointly) with no qualifying children	\$390

For more information on local VITA sites, contact the DHS Service Centers at: 1-866-311-4287 or use the 2-1-1 information line in the following counties:

- |            |              |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Anderson | • Grainger   | • Maury      | • Sumner     |
| • Blount   | • Hamilton   | • Rhea       | • Tipton     |
| • Cannon   | • Hawkins    | • Roane      | • Trousdale  |
| • Carter   | • Jefferson  | • Robertson  | • Union      |
| • Cheatham | • Johnson    | • Rutherford | • Williamson |
| • Davidson | • Knox       | • Sevier     | • Wilson     |
| • Dickson  | • Lauderdale | • Shelby     |              |
| • Fayette  | • Loudon     | • Sullivan   |              |

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